

Southeast News

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Southeast Conference Congratulated

The Southeast Conference has received a note of congratulations from George W. Otto, Executive Director of the Stewardship Council of the United Church of Christ for the \$3,500 increase in National Basic Support which was achieved by the Conference in 1979.

Of the \$98,000 OCWM giving goal, some 29 percent, or \$28,420 was forwarded from the Southeast Conference for National Basic Support in 1979.

In response Rev. Otto expressed his appreciation to Southeast Conference Minister, W. J. Andes by saying, "Your leadership in the Southeast Conference has been truly significant and I am grateful for what you have meant to the United Church of Christ."

The 1980 Southeast Conference budget calls for some \$30,000 to be forwarded to National Basic Support out of a total OCWM giving goal of \$107,000.

MOV To Enable Volunteers

Does your congregation have difficulties in identifying, selecting and recruiting members for leadership positions in the church?

After officers and committees are elected at your annual meeting do they wonder what they are supposed to do and how? Do they ever get discouraged and ask "Is it really worthwhile?"

These and other related questions may be answered for you in a new resource called "Ministry of Volunteers" (MOV) developed by the Office for Church Life and Leadership of the United Church.

Workshops to introduce this new resource and explain how it can best be used will be held in the Southeast Conference at the Association annual meetings in the fall, 1980.

Churches interested in seeing the resource material beforehand should write to OCLL staff person Rev. Joyce Myers in care of the Conference Office.



Dr. William Andes

CONFERENCE MINISTER WILLIAM J. ANDES TO RETIRE

After nearly 14 years of leadership as the Conference Minister of the Southeast Conference, United Church of Christ, the Rev. Dr. William J. Andes and his wife, Carey, will retire on April 1, 1980.

A native of Harrisonburg, VA and the son of a Congregational Christian minister, Dr. Andes was a graduate of Duke Divinity School, Durham, N.C. and Elon College (N.C.) where he received the B.A. as well as D.D. degree. He is married to the former Carey E. Atkins of High Point, N.C. The Andes have one son, David Andes, of Philadelphia, PA.

Prior to joining the Southeast Conference as Conference Minister in 1966, Dr. Andes had served four churches: Happy Home Congregational Church, Reidsville, N.C.; Hanks Chapel Congregational Christian Church, Pittsboro, N.C.; United Church, Winston-Salem, N.C. and Elon College Community Church, Elon College, N.C.

Arriving at a time that was full of challenges, Dr. Andes faced not only discord, but a mission budget that depended on national funding for Conference survival. Some 14 years later,

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Special Meeting of the Conference Called

A special meeting of the Southeast Conference has been called by the Board of Directors for Saturday, March 22 at 10:30 a.m. (EST) at First Congregational Church, UCC, 105 Courtland Street, N.E. in Atlanta, GA.

The purpose of the meeting is to receive and act on the nomination by the Board of Directors of the Rev. Dr. Emmett Floyd as the next Conference Minister of the Southeast Conference.

Should he be elected, Dr. Floyd would succeed Dr. William Andes who will retire April 1, 1980 after 14 years in the position.

Dr. Floyd was recommended to the Board of Directors by the Conference Minister Search Committee at the Board's March 1st meeting.

Conference churches are entitled to 3 delegates for the first 100 members and one additional delegate for each additional 100 members.

Uplands Day April 27

Many churches in the Southeast Conference will observe April 27th as Uplands Day. George Percival, Director of Development at Uplands, is sending information to the churches.

Uplands is a retirement community at Pleasant Hill, TN, and is a member of the Council of Health and Welfare Services of the United Church of Christ.

The offerings from the churches are used primarily in Wharton Nursing Home to offset the expenses of patients who no longer have enough money to pay for their care.

Offerings can be sent to the Southeast Conference Office, P. O. Box 29883, Atlanta, GA 30359. Mark the checks "For Uplands." Or the offering can be sent directly to Uplands, Inc., P.O. Box 168, Pleasant Hill, TN 38578.

Don't miss this opportunity. Support Uplands on April 27th!

IN CONCLUSION: AN INTERVIEW WITH BILL AND CAREY ANDES

Q. Looking back on the 14 years that you served in the Conference Minister's position, what were some of the high points and some of the low points?

A. Carey Andes: A couple of things occurred to me. One is the great improvement in the area of being inclusive in the churches' associations in the Conference. There is the tremendous feeling of friendship and fellowship that we have together. One other thing I might mention is the great increase in giving to basic support from all the individual churches.

A. Bill Andes: I guess one of the good things is that we reduced the number of Committees and Commissions and the number of Associations. That helped us out with the strategy of administration and that sort of thing. Another good point has been New Church Development. This has been a real thrill to me to see new churches come into being and to find new life and new money, new spirit and new enthusiasm. Another has been the up-growth in OCWM giving — from about \$30,000 in 1966 to \$98,000 this year. One of the hard but joyful situations are the many small churches we have. It's hard to find enough ministers for those churches and money to go with it. Finally, we probably have not done enough in social action and I hope there is a readiness to move forward there.

Q. What are you both going to miss most?

A. Carey Andes: I know that there will be a lot of things I will miss — friends is the first thing I think about. I will miss my church, Central Congregational. I will very much miss our annual Minister's Convocations that we had for both minister and spouse. And I will miss my neighborhood and the metropolitan Atlanta area.

A. Bill Andes: While Carey will miss a lot of things here in Atlanta, I would miss the travel that has been rather good in a variety of ways. But, I guess I would miss more than anything else the lives of the people and the church, the homes into which I have gone, the friends we have made across the Conference, and the fellowship we have had with the volunteers, the ministers and the lay people who have done a great deal in the Conference.

Q. What, in turn, will you miss the least?

A. Carey Andes: What I will be glad to miss is Billy being away on a trip all the time, being late for all the meals, and being difficult to do things with because



Bill and Carey Andes

he's not here. I will be glad to miss that! And the traffic in Atlanta — I'll be glad to miss that, too!

A. Bill Andes: I think I will be glad to miss the constant worry of searching for money with which to do programs. I think I will be glad to miss the administrative responsibilities of an office. When you get back from a trip you know the office is there waiting. That has been good, but at the same time it has been a burden. I have also missed a great deal of playing golf, but I hope to get back into that somehow or other a little later.

Q. Looking back over your work together, what are some of your thoughts and feelings about this body of Christ called the church?

A. Bill Andes: Well, the Church seems to me to be a special group of people. And as much as you want to designate it as the body of Christ, it's hard to conceive it as the body of Christ. It is a slow process, tedious at times, laborious, hard to move, but I think we inch forward. . . . But, it seems to me that the church really is a haven. If it were not for the church many things would not happen socially. I am especially proud of the UCC as it relates to the social issues in the south, in the sunbelt. So, what we try to do is a little bit, and I think that is where personal responsibility and social responsibility comes into play.

A. Carey Andes: I made up my mind one time that I wanted to marry a minister —

why I don't know. I have been interested in the church and the work of the church ever since I was quite young. And I was very much involved in my home church as a young person, and decided that since I liked the church so much, I should marry a minister. But since then I have had some grave doubts! It has been a lot of fun at times, but at times it was very trying. The work of the church has been interesting and fascinating, sometimes very, very tiring and sometimes I think we completely missed the mark. But, I'm very glad that I changed to this denomination. (Maybe I better not say from which one.) But, anyway, I think that the United Church of Christ probably comes closest to standing for and working for the ideals that I have for the Christian world and the world at large.

Q. What are your aspirations, visions and hopes for the Conference in the decade ahead?

A. Bill Andes: My hopes and dreams for this Conference if I were facing the next ten or fourteen years would be a great emphasis on new churches. I just think we have got to have those if we are going to stay in business. Another would be the re-development of certain key churches that can meet the needs of the age. And they are being turned around and they are growing. I would like to see a larger emphasis on the retirement community type of life. I also would like to play out the theme of the child in the family if I could. Some practical suggestions and procedures for our churches to develop family and child life — it seems to me that would be well worth it. I would also encourage a larger relationship with the national body of the church — they are a grand group with which to work.

Q. What are your retirement plans?

A. Bill Andes: We're going to slow things down a bit in April and take a little vacation before moving back to North Carolina where I will be helping on a part-time basis local churches to relate to Elon Home for Children. I also plan to play some golf!

A. Carey Andes: We've decided to move back to Elon College, N.C. because we have a home and part-time job there. It's going to be a different pace — after all there are only 3,000 people in that community. I also expect to see more of Billy and I expect we can do more together.

Youth Core Means Enthusiasm

"Youth Core means enthusiasm!" That was the conclusion reached by 35 high school youth and adult advisors from churches scattered across the Southeast Conference who met in the first Youth Core Training Event for 1980 January 25-27 at Camp Calvin near Atlanta, GA.

Specially selected for their interest in the church and their leadership ability, Youth Core participants are given special training to enable them to lead groups in local church and Conference settings. In its fourth year, present Youth Core participants are aiming toward leadership at special activities for youth at the June 6-8 Conference Annual Meeting at Fisk University in Nashville, TN.

Toward that end, a second Youth Core training event will be held at First E&R, UCC in Nashville Friday-Sunday, March 21-23, 1980. Members of the Core will participate in five leadership workshops, visit Fisk University and make detailed plans for leadership during the Conference Annual Meeting.

STUDENT AID PROGRAM AVAILABLE

The UCC Student Aid Program has been reduced to \$20,000 in available funds this year. Application forms are available through Rev. John Lackey, Weisgarber and Lonas Rds., Knoxville, TN 37919.

The deadline for sending applications is June 16.

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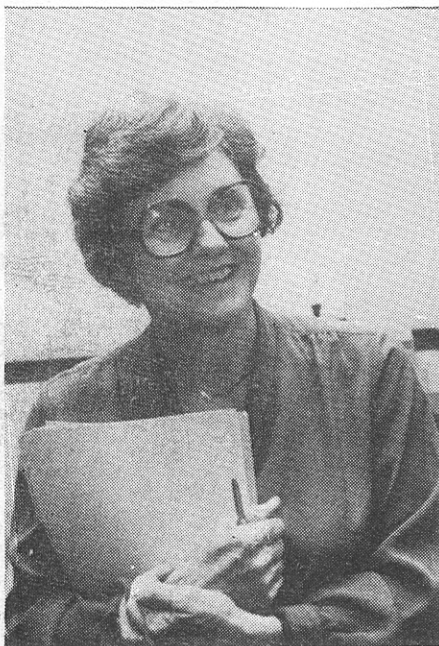
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MRS. DODIE MacELHANNON

Georgia Interchurch Association Elects First Woman President

The first woman to be elected President of the Georgia Interchurch Association is eager to see the state's only ecumenical organization "become better known and open dialogue with Jews and other faiths."

In a recent interview following her election, Mrs. J. R. (Dodie) MacElhannon, a United Methodist from Columbus, GA, commented on her feelings about being GIA's first woman president.

"I think anytime there is a first for a woman in a position that has traditionally been a man's domain in the past, it is one more step in the direction of freeing women of the stigma they are straddled with. Usually, when you have a woman in a group like this, they are elected secretary and spend a lot of time in the kitchen making coffee and cookies."

Along with being the first woman president in GIA's 28-year history, Mrs. MacElhannon is one of the only two non-clerical presidents.

The Georgia Interchurch Association currently claims 14 constituent church groups among whom are 10 distinct denominations, one of which is the UCC. GIA's central aim is to provide an organization where different denominations can regularly communicate face-to-face and cooperate in ministry, particularly in the field of social concerns.

Southeast Conference Minister W. J. Andes has been Treasurer of GIA for the past 6 years. Rev. Floyd Carmack has been on the Personnel Committee of GIA's Board of Directors for the past 4 years.

A.D. Cheaper By The Dozen

Do you remember the phrase "cheaper by the dozen"? Well, so does A.D. Magazine, the magazine of the United Church of Christ. A.D. is offering a special 12 for 50 certificate: enter 12 subscriptions on an A.D. Leadership Plan for a total cost of only \$50.00. That's a little more than \$4.00 per year for 12 issues of an informative and award-winning magazine.

In a time when prices are only going up, A.D. Magazine continues to bring its price down.

For further information write to: A.D., P. O. Box 100, Brewster, N.Y. 10509.

Good News from Huntsville

At their Annual Meeting the members of Huntsville UCC were given the good news: not only did their pledges exceed their proposed budget, but for the first time in the history of the church a request for a moratorium on the building debt of the church was not needed!

In addition, the church set three new goals for 1980 and the coming years: to continue to reach out in Christian love and growth; to pay off the present building debt during the next four to five years; and to make definite plans toward securing a loan from the Board of Homeland Ministries to build a sanctuary no later than 1985.

Rev. Eugene Keen has been pastor of the church for the past two years.

Andes Cont'd.

the Conference no longer receives, but gave nearly \$30,000 to the National Basic Support in 1979. Conference staff has been expanded to an Associate Conference Minister and an Administrative Assistant along with a host of committed volunteers. New Church development has been encouraged with two new churches officially underway. And in addition to his service as a Member of the Executive Council of the General Synod of the United Church of Christ, Dr. Andes leaves the churches of the Southeast Conference no less heterogeneous, but united in their relationships to one another and in their heartfelt thanks to him.

Upon retirement, Dr. Andes and his wife, Carey, plan to move back to Elon College, N.C. where they have a home and where Dr. Andes will take up part-time work as the Development Coordinator for the Elon Home for Children.

Thanks Bill and Carey!

Howard Celebrates 110th Anniversary

Howard Congregational Church, UCC in Nashville, Tennessee celebrated its 110th Anniversary on November 25, 1979 at special observances held both at the church and at Fisk University.

Culminating a full month of preparatory worship experiences led on three successive Sundays by the men, women and youth of the church, the highlight of the celebration was a banquet held in Jubilee Hall on the Fisk University campus on the evening of November 25. Attended by nearly 200 members, former members and friends of the church, the banquet dinner was followed by the reading of some fascinating letters tracing the foundation of Howard Church, which was originally the chapel of Fisk University. The evening concluded with a stirring address by Fisk University President Walter Leonard.

Providing leadership for the event were Mrs. Mattie Turner, Mrs. Minerva Hawkins and Mrs. Louise Holiday. Rev. Wilson Welch is pastor of the church.

FOOTPRINTS

A cancer patient in a hospital had a dream. This was the dream: "I was walking along the beach with the Lord and across the sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand. One set belonged to me, the other to the Lord. When the last scene of my life flashed before us, I looked back at the footprints in the sand. I noticed that there were times along the path of my life when there was only one set of footprints. I also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in my life. This really bothered me and I questioned the Lord about it."

"I said, 'Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you would walk with me all the way, but I have noticed that during the most troublesome times of my life there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why in times when I needed you most, you would leave me.'"

"The Lord answered: 'My precious child, I love you and I would never leave you during times of trials and suffering. When you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you in my arms.'"

—Newsletter, Lanett UCC, Lanett, AL



South Alabama-Northwest Florida Sweetheart Banquet, February 8, 1980. [l-r] Association Moderator, Rev. Dale Foreman has just crowned the "kings" and "queens" of the event. Grover Murph, Angie Clark and the Jr. king and queen Mechelle Cressher and Jason Barrow [and father Tommy Barrow.]

N-E-W-S and N-O-T-E-S

Members of Knoxville Church of the Savior UCC learned a lot about Vietnamese food at their February 24th Vietnamese Dinner which earned \$722 for RAFT — Refugee Assistance and Friendship Team.

Lt. Carole Colbert, daughter of the late Dr. Guy Colbert — Pastor-at-Large of the North Alabama Association — and Mrs. Frances Colbert of Hartselle, AL, flew out of Miami on January 21 for the Panama Canal where she is serving as an Ordnance Officer.

The 90 members of the Heidelberg College Choir, Heidelberg, Ohio, performed in concert at Central Congregational Church, UCC, Atlanta on Monday, March 3, 1980.

Two Southeast Conference churches will be observing anniversary celebrations in 1981. Charleston Circular Church, 136 Meeting Street, will be celebrating its 300th and Knoxville Church of the Savior, 827 Redsail Drive, will celebrate its 25th anniversary. Plans are underway in both churches for these momentous occasions.

Due to illness, Dr. Alford Carleton, recently of Uplands Retirement Center, has moved with his wife, Mary, to 1862-23 Riverside Drive, Columbus, OH 43212. While he cannot respond, Dr. Carleton still welcomes and looks forward to any correspondence he might receive.

A training session for counselors at the Southern Alabama Area Spring Mini-Camp will be held on March 15 from

10:00-3:00 CST at First Congregational Church, UCC in Montgomery, AL.

Some 270 persons attended the annual Men's Fellowship Ladies Night of the East Alabama Association, held February 16, at Southern Union Junior College, Wadley, AL. Mr. Ed Lauderdale was recognized as Layman of the Year and Rev. Don Scoville, pastor of Oak Grove Church, Pine Mountain, GA, was recognized as Minister of the Year.

Boy Scout Troop No. 1, sponsored by Lanett, AL, Congregational Christian Church, UCC, was recently recognized not only as the oldest troop in the George H. Lanier Council, but as number one in their district with a 23 percent increase in membership recruitment.

Dr. James Lightbourne will serve as the "Theologian-In-Residence" March 8-11 at Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC in Birmingham, AL. Dr. Lightbourne is the Conference Minister of the Southern Conference of the UCC and Chairman of the Council of Conference Ministers.

Rev. Joyce Myers, OCLL staff person for the southern region, was the morning preacher and special guest of Huguley Congregational Christian Church, Lanett, AL during Sunday services February 17. Rev. Myers reflected not only on her work for OCLL, but on her years of service as a missionary for UCBWM.

A church signboard had this message: "For God so loved the world that He didn't send a committee."